



Noise Statement

The Three Frogs, London Rd, Wokingham

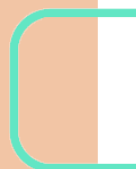
Greene King

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Noise Statement

Introduction

A retrospective planning application has been submitted for the development of an outdoor seating area for The Three Frogs pub in London Road, Wokingham, RG40 1SW. Noise complaints have been made to the pub and the application has received several objections from local residents. This technical note presents the findings of an external noise survey conducted on site to assess the noise impact on neighbouring residents from pub activity.

Site description

The site is located on London Road, Wokingham, RG40 1SW. The surrounding area consists primarily of residential properties, with the nearest neighbours to the site being on Harmar Close. The primary sources of noise affecting the residences on Harmar Close are road traffic noise from London Road (A329), building services noise from external plant belonging to the pub, and activity noise from the pub itself.

The outdoor garden area is situated on the south-east area of the site, c. 7m away from the boundary of the nearest neighbour on Harmar Close.

Pub activity noise affecting the neighbours can include: patron noise from customers, TV noise, live music and emptying of glass bins. There is a TV and speakers in the outdoor garden, and live sports fixtures are regularly shown at the pub including the recent 2026 FIFA World Cup.

External noise survey – measurement methodology

Continuous unattended noise level measurements were conducted at ground level in the car park of the site. The microphone was extended around 2.5m above local ground, and placed in what is considered representative of free-field conditions.

The microphone was placed less than a metre from the boundary fence to the Harmar Close residences. Measurements taken at this location are therefore considered representative of the background sound levels at the nearest neighbours.

Statistical and spectral data were recorded in 15-minute samples between 17:00 on Tuesday the 16th June and 14:00 on Friday the 19th June 2026. The “fast” (125ms) time constant was used.

A satellite image showing the site, measurement location, and residential properties surrounding the site are shown in the figure overleaf.



Figure 1 Satellite image showing site, measurement location and neighbouring properties

The following equipment was used to carry out the measurements:

Equipment	Manufacturer/model	Serial no.
Class 1 Sound level meter	Norsonic 139	1392774
Environmental microphone	Norsonic 1218	12182559
Portable sound calibrator	Norsonic 1251	34926

Table 0-1 Equipment used for noise survey

The calibration of the sound level meter and associated microphone were checked prior to and on completion of the survey in accordance with recommended practice. No significant drift in calibration occurred during the survey. The accuracy of the calibrator can be traced to National Physical Laboratory Standards.

Weather conditions throughout the survey were mostly dry with little wind. The measurement data are not considered to have been adversely affected by the weather in the context of this assessment.

External noise survey – results & commentary

A graph showing the noise level history during the survey period is presented below:

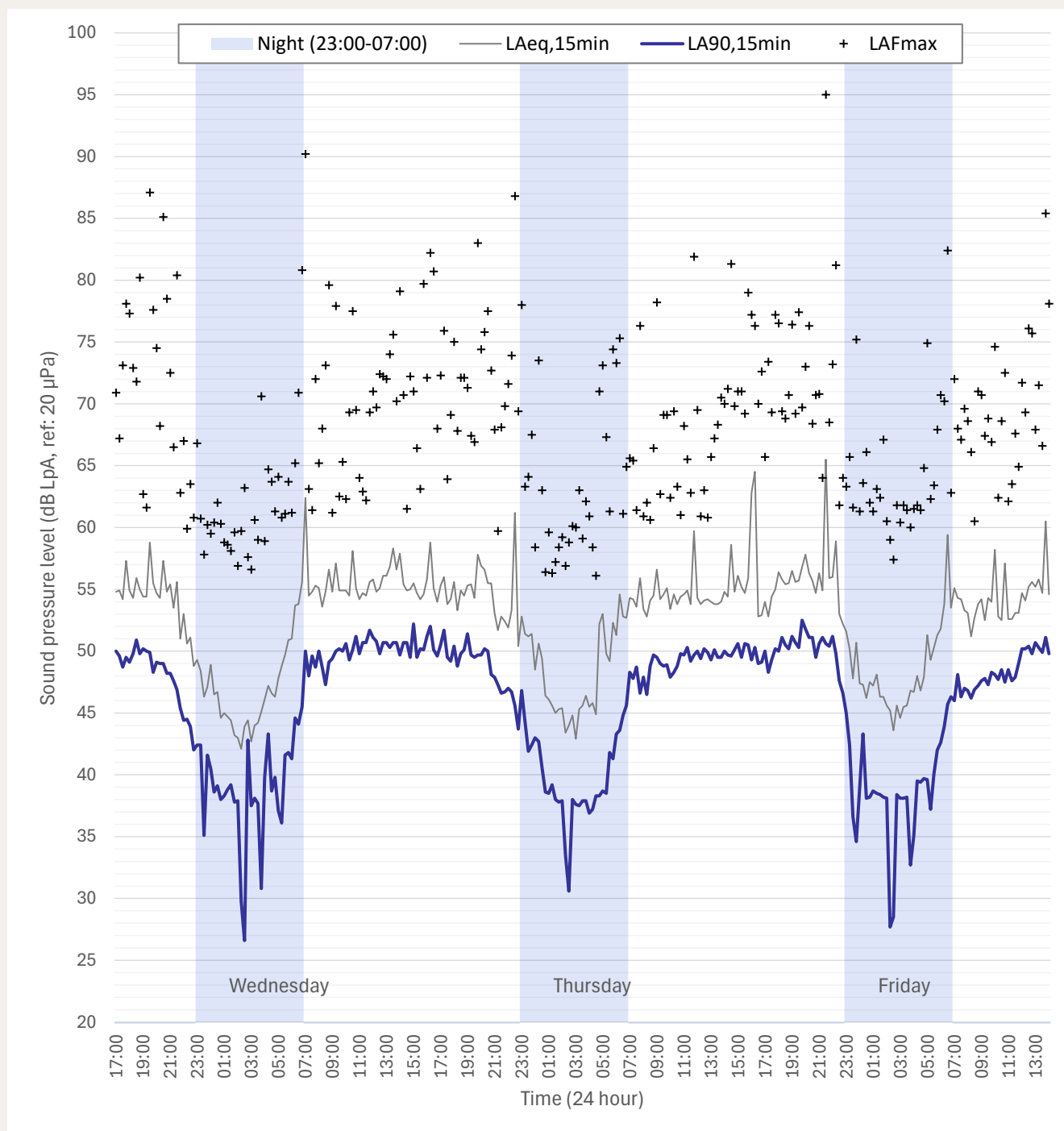


Figure 2 Noise level history during survey period

Ambient and background sound levels are dominated by noise from the building services plant belonging to the pub (understood to be kitchen extract). This can be seen from the constant flat levels during the day and the sudden drop off at nighttime.

Based on automatic audio recordings during the survey, maximum noise levels are considered to be from vehicles in the car park (engines, doors slamming), loud vehicle passbys on London Rd (particularly motorbikes and sports cars) and pub customers shouting.

These specific set of days for the noise survey were chosen to include the first England match of the FIFA World Cup 2026, with it expected to be exceptionally busy at the pub during this fixture (which was on Wednesday 17th June at 21:00). Measured data during this period is therefore considered to be a good representative of a particularly busy night.

However, between each day, the noise levels do not appear to change much according to the measured data. Ambient and background levels remain at an average of around 55 dB L_{Aeq} and 50 dB L_{A90} respectively, across all four days and three nights. The range in maximum noise levels across all four days remain consistent, with most occurrences being between 60-80 dB L_{AFmax} during daytime and 55-70 dB L_{AFmax} during nighttime.

The England game on Wednesday did not exhibit materially higher noise levels compared to other evenings.

This therefore suggests that it is not necessarily an issue with the overall noise *levels* but discrete individual events of patrons shouting and such that's causing noise complaints – more importantly that these are *intelligible/perceptible*, as shown by the several neighbours' comments referring specifically to foul/inoffensive language often being heard.

With the disturbance to neighbours being driven more by the character and intelligibility of individual events, it would be more effective to mitigate noise impact via management and operational control on the pub's side instead of a noise *level*/reduction approach (such as with the use of acoustic fences).

Noise control policy

Following a meeting between the pub operator Greene King and neighbouring residents, a Noise Control Policy was proposed for the premises. The measures proposed in this policy is considered to be sufficient to mitigate any further adverse noise impact on neighbouring properties owing to the pub's activities.

A copy of the Noise Control Policy has been included in Appendix B of this note.

It is considered that the conclusions based on the noise survey along with the proposed Noise Control Policy for the pub to adopt will satisfy the Council's anticipated requirements.

Appendix – Terminology

This appendix provides an explanation of some of the terms used in this report.

A-weighting L_A or L_{pA} , L_{WA}	Within its operating limits a precision measurement microphone measures all frequencies the same so the output it produces does not reflect what we would actually hear. The A-weighting is an electronic filter that matches the response of a sound level meter to that of the human ear. When A-weighted the Sound Pressure Level L_p becomes L_{pA} (or L_A) and the Sound Power Level L_W becomes L_{WA} .
L_p	<i>The instantaneous sound pressure level (L_p)</i>
L_{pA} (or L_A)	<i>The A-weighted instantaneous sound pressure level (L_{pA} or L_A). This is the root mean square size of the pressure fluctuations in the air. This level can fluctuate wildly even for seemingly steady sounds. To make sound level meters easier to read the values on the display are smoothed or damped out. This is effectively done by taking a rolling average of the previous 0.125s (FAST time constant) or the previous 1s (SLOW time constant).</i>
L_{AF} , L_{AS}	The letters F or S are added to the subscripts in the notation to indicate when the FAST or SLOW time constant has been used. These are often omitted but it is good practice to include them.
L_{max}	<i>The maximum instantaneous sound pressure level (L_{max}),</i>
L_{Amax}	<i>The A-weighted maximum instantaneous sound pressure level (L_{Amax})</i>
L_{AFmax}	<i>The A-weighted maximum instantaneous sound pressure level with a FAST time constant (L_{AFmax}).</i>
$L_{N,T}$	<i>The percentage exceedance sound pressure level ($L_{N,T}$),</i>
$L_{AN,T}$ $L_{AFN,T}$ N = %age value, 0-100 T = measurement time eg. L_{A90} , L_{A10} , $L_{AF90, 5 min}$	<i>The A-weighted percentage exceedance sound pressure level ($L_{AN,T}$), the A-weighted percentage exceedance sound pressure level with a FAST time constant ($L_{AFN,T}$). This is the sound pressure level exceeded for $N\%$ of time period T. e.g. If an A-weighted level of x dB is exceeded for a total of 6 minutes within one hour, the level will have been above x dB for 10% of the measurement period. This is written as $L_{A10,1hr} = x$ dB. L_{A0} (the level exceeded for 0 % of the time) is equivalent to the L_{Amax} and L_{A100} (the level exceeded for 100 % of the time) is equivalent to the L_{Amin}. It is good practice to include the letter which identifies the time constant used as this can make a significant difference to the value.</i>
$L_{eq,T}$	<i>The equivalent continuous sound pressure level over period T ($L_{eq,T}$),</i>
$L_{Aeq,T}$ T = measurement time eg. $L_{Aeq,5min}$	<i>The A-weighted equivalent continuous sound pressure level over period T ($L_{Aeq,T}$). This is effectively the average sound pressure level over a given period. As the decibel is a logarithmic quantity the L_{eq} is not a simple arithmetic mean value. The L_{eq} is calculated from the raw sound pressure data. It is not appropriate to include a reference to the FAST and SLOW time constants in the notation.</i>

Appendix B – Noise Control Policy (Greene King)

Noise Control Policy – Three Frogs 5299

The company recognises the potential for noise from the premises to be a concern to neighbours and residents. This could be from noisy early deliveries to late night trading.

To ensure that the potential for disturbance is minimised, the pub will adopt the following control measures. The enforcement of these control measures will be the responsibility of the Designated Premises Supervisor or, in their absence, the Duty Manager.

- All windows to remain closed when live music is playing after 10pm
- Garden area to close at 10pm – Signage displayed
- TV / speakers in the garden volume limited
- External music will be turned off at 10pm
- Duty Manager to take decibel readings from 2 different spots externally every hour during peak trading. These readings to be recorded and retained on site
- TV / Music externally will have a pre-set maximum level that will not be exceeded
- Duty Manager to monitor and maintain control of garden area
- Customer dispersal policy in place.
- Signage displayed externally asking customers to respect our neighbours and leave quietly
- Glass bins not to be emptied after 9pm
- No glass to leave the premises
- Open drop-in meeting with pub manager once a month – first Wednesday of every month 10am to 11am

The company believes these measures will minimise the risk of noise-related issues. This policy will be kept under review and updated as necessary if any concerns are reported to management.